

**No: 1/87**

**Ref: 2a**

**Aircraft type and registration:** Aerospatiale AS332L G-BMCW

**No & Type of engines:** 2 Turbomeca Makila 1A turbine engines

**Year of Manufacture:** 1985

**Date and time (UTC):** 4 November 1986 at 1620 hrs

**Location:** N58° 31" W002° .05"

**Type of flight:** Commercial — Winching

**Persons on board:** Crew — 4                      Passengers — 1

**Injuries:** Crew — None                      Passengers — 1 (serious)

**Nature of damage:** None

**Commander's Licence:** Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 39 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 9700 hours rotary wing (of which 1740 were on type)

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The helicopter was carrying out a passenger transfer, under a Ministry of Defence Contract, from a submarine in the North Sea some twenty miles offshore.

The conditions were sea state 3—4, wind velocity 25—30 knots and the transfer was taking place from the conning tower. The pilot reported that with the relative wind on the port bow of the submarine he established a stable hover overhead the conning tower using the submarine's bow as a reference point.

The strop was then lowered for the passenger but while maintaining the overhead position a large wave suddenly covered the bow. The result of this loss of reference was that the hover position became unstable and the passenger was prematurely snatched out of the conning tower sustaining a fractured pelvis in the process.